

Sierra Nevada Conservancy

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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The Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) is identifying potential locations for the establishment of regional offices to serve the citizens of the Sierra Nevada Region. These offices will house regional staff who will coordinate with local organizations, governmental agencies and the public in carrying out activities consistent with the SNC's mission. At the October 5, 2006 SNC Board Meeting, criteria and a process for selection of regional offices was approved. The primary criteria include the following:

- Ability to serve areas that are not easily accessible from Headquarters Office;
- Access to major highway/s, ease of travel throughout the service area;
- Geographically located in such a way that provides for adequate coverage of the entire service area;
- Access to adequate cell phone service and high speed internet;
- Potential for "co-location" with another public agency (local, state or federal), including office space, access to support services and potential for sharing staff;
- Proximity to other governmental agencies and key stakeholders;
- Accessibility to the public;
- Employee considerations such as housing affordability, schools and health care.

Additional details can be found by visiting www.sierranevada.ca.gov. Individuals or organizations wishing to suggest a potential location may do so by visiting the website and selecting the "Regional Office Selection Process" link. The Conservancy is seeking input on potential locations through November 3, 2006.

Under the direction of a Board subcommittee, staff will identify potential locations and evaluate the sites based on the criteria approved by the Board. It is expected that the Board will act upon recommendations from the staff and subcommittee at its December 7, 2006 meeting in Chester. The goal is to have regional offices in operation by April 1, 2007.

The SNC was created by legislation signed by Governor Schwarzenegger in September of 2004. Its mission is to initiate, encourage, and support efforts that improve the environmental, economic and social well-being of the Sierra Nevada Region, its communities and the citizens of California. The Conservancy will provide funding, technical assistance, information and other community assistance in order to achieve its mission. The agency will coordinate and cooperate with local governments and other partners in developing and implementing its programs across 25 million acres from the Oregon border to Kern County (about 25% of the state). The Region includes all or part of 22 counties and more than 200 communities.

Information about the Conservancy, including a copy of its Strategic Plan and Action Plan, can be found at www.sierranevada.ca.gov.

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